AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method for optimizing a tour having a first segment with an origination point and a destination point and a second segment with an origination point and a destination point, comprising <u>steps implemented by a computer</u> of:

    receiving first load data about a first load and second load data about a second load;

    evaluating a fit of the first load data on the first segment and a fit of the second load data on the second segment<u>, wherein evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises:</u>

        <u>determining a common carrier cost for putting the first load on a common carrier;</u>

        <u>determining a dedicated cost for putting the first load on the first segment; and</u>

        <u>setting a savings criteria for the first segment as the difference between the common carrier cost and the dedicated cost;</u>

    evaluating a fit of the first load data on the second segment and a fit of the second load data on the second segment;

    ranking<u>, in a first list comprising available loads for the first segment,</u> the relative fits of the first load data and the second load data against the first segment ~~on a first segment list~~;

    ranking<u>, in a second list comprising available loads for the second segment,</u> the relative fits of the first load data and the second load data against the second segment ~~on a second segment list~~;

assigning the load having the highest ranking fit from the first ~~segment~~ list
to the first segment and removing that load from the second
~~segment~~ list; and

assigning the load having the highest ranking fit from the second ~~segment~~
list to the second segment.

2. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 1, wherein
evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises evaluating key
parameters of the first load data, wherein the key parameters include one or
more of a time criteria, a distance criteria, and a savings criteria.

3. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 2, wherein
evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises:

checking a latest ready delivery date of the first load data against the first
segment's estimated end date; and

if the latest ready delivery date is greater than the estimated end date,
setting the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

4. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 2, wherein
evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises:

checking a latest load ready date of the first load data against the first
segment's estimated start date; and

if the latest load ready date is less than the estimated start date, setting
the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

5. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 2, wherein the distance criteria include one or more of a segment deadhead criteria, load deadhead criteria, and tour mileage criteria.

6. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 5, wherein evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises:

computing the segment deadhead resulting from assigning the first load to the first segment; and

if the computed segment deadhead is greater than the segment deadhead criteria, setting the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

7. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 5, wherein evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises:

computing the total tour deadhead that would result from assigning the first load to the first segment; and

if the computed total tour deadhead is greater than the load deadhead criteria, setting the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

8. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 5, wherein evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises:

computing the total tour mileage that would result from assigning the first

load to the first segment; and

if the computed total tour mileage is greater than the tour mileage criteria,

setting the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method for optimizing a plurality of tours, each tour comprising a

plurality of segments, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of loads, wherein each load may be assigned to a

segment of a tour;

placing the plurality of received loads in an available load pool;

assigning a load from the available load pool to each respective segment

of a first tour from the plurality of tours in order to optimize the total

cost savings of the first tour;

removing the assigned loads from the available load pool; and

repeating the assigning and removing stages for each of the remaining

plurality of tours for which the assigning stage has not been

performed.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for optimizing a plurality of tours, each tour comprising a

plurality of segments, the method comprising:

receiving it plurality of loads, wherein each load may be assigned to a

segment of a tour;

placing the plurality of received loads in an available load pool;

assigning a load from the available load pool to each respective segment

of a first tour from the plurality of tours in order to optimize the total

cost sayings of the whole of the plurality of tours; and

repeating the assigning stage for each of the remaining plurality of tours

for which the assigning stage has not been performed.

13.   (Withdrawn) A method for scratch optimizing a plurality of loads, comprising:

receiving a plurality of loads;

placing the plurality of received loads in an available load pool;

creating a tour, having one or more segments, based on the available load

pool;

assigning a load from the available load pool to each respective segment

of the created tour in order to optimize the cost savings of the

created tour; and removing the assigned loads from the available

load pool.

14.   (Currently Amended) A system for optimizing a tour having a first segment with
an origination point and a destination point and a second segment with an
origination point and a destination point comprising:

a memory; and

a microprocessor coupled to the memory and programmed to:

receive first load data about a first load and second load
data about a second load;

evaluate a fit of the first load data on the first segment and a
fit of the second load data on the first segment,
wherein the microprocessor evaluates the fit of the
first load data by being further programmed to: [[;]]

determine a common carrier cost for putting
the first load on a common carrier;

determine a dedicated cost for putting the first
load on the first segment; and

set the savings criteria as the difference
between the common carrier cost and
the dedicated cost;

evaluate a fit of the first load data on the second segment
and a fit of the second load data on the second
segment;

rank, in a first list comprising available loads for the first
segment, the relative fits of the first load data and the
second load data against the first segment on a first
segment list;

rank, in a second list comprising available loads for the
second segment, the relative fits of the first load data
and the second load data against the second
segment on a second segment list;

assign the load having the highest ranking fit from the first
segment list to the first segment and removing that
load from the second segment list; and

assign the load having the highest ranking fit from the

second ~~segment~~ list to the second segment.

15.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein <u>the microprocessor is</u>

<u>further programmed to evaluate</u> ~~evaluating the fit of the first load data further~~

~~comprises evaluating~~ key parameters of the first load data <u>as part of evaluating</u>

<u>the fit of the first load data</u>, wherein the key parameters include one or more of a

time criteria, a distance criteria, and a savings criteria.

16.   (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the microprocessor is further

programmed to:

        check a latest ready delivery date of the first load data against the first

                segment's estimated end date; and

        if the latest ready delivery date is greater than the estimated end date, set

                the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

17.   (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the microprocessor is further

programmed to:

        check a latest load ready date of the first load data against the first

                segment's estimated start date; and

        if the latest load ready date is less than the estimated start date, set the

                first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

18.   (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the distance criteria include one or more of a segment deadhead criteria, load deadhead criteria, and tour mileage criteria.

19.   (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to:

compute the segment deadhead resulting from assigning the first load to the first segment; and

if the computed segment deadhead is greater than the segment deadhead criteria, set the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to:

compute the total tour deadhead that would result from assigning the first load to the first segment; and

if the computed total tour deadhead is greater than the load deadhead criteria, set the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

21.   (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to:

compute the total tour mileage that would result from assigning the first

load to the first segment; and

if the computed total tour mileage is greater than the tour mileage criteria,

set the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

22-23. (Canceled)

24.   (Withdrawn) A system for optimizing a plurality of tours, each tour comprising a

plurality of segments comprising:

a memory; and

a microprocessor coupled to the memory and programmed to:

receive a plurality of loads, wherein each load may be assigned to a

segment of a tour;

place the plurality of received loads in an available load pool;

assign a load from the available load pool to each respective segment of a

first tour from the plurality of tours in order to optimize the total cost

savings of the first tour;

remove the assigned loads from the available load pool; and

repeat the assigning and removing stages for each of the remaining

plurality of tours for which the assigning stage has not been

performed.

25.   (Withdrawn) A system for optimizing a plurality of tours, each tour comprising a

plurality of segments comprising:

a memory; and

a microprocessor coupled to the memory and programmed to:

receive a plurality of loads, wherein each load may be assigned to a

segment of a tour;

place the plurality of received loads in an available load pool;

assign a load from the available load pool to each respective segment of a

first tour from the plurality of tours in order to optimize the total cost

savings of the whole of the plurality of tours; and

repeat the assigning stage for each of the remaining plurality of tours for

which the assigning stage has not been performed.

26.   (Withdrawn) A system for scratch optimizing a plurality of loads, comprising:

a memory; and

a microprocessor coupled to the memory and programmed to:

receive a plurality of loads;

place the plurality of received loads in an available load pool;

create a tour, having one or more segments, based on the available load

pool;

assign a load from the available load pool to each respective segment of

the created tour in order to optimize the cost savings of the created

tour; and remove the assigned loads from the available load pool.

27.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~An article of manufacture~~ containing instructions for optimizing a tour having a first segment with an origination point and a destination point and a second segment with an origination point and a destination point, the instructions, when executed by a processor, ~~being capable of~~ causing the [[a]] processor to perform stages comprising:

> ~~receive~~ receiving first load data about a first load and second load data about a second load;
>
> ~~evaluate~~ evaluating a fit of the first load data on the first segment and a fit of the second load data on the first segment, wherein evaluating the fit of the first load data on the first segment further comprises: [[;]]
>
> > determining a common carrier cost for putting the first load on a common carrier;
> >
> > determining a dedicated cost for putting the first load on the first segment; and
> >
> > setting a savings criteria as the difference between the common carrier cost and the dedicated cost;
>
> ~~evaluate~~ evaluating a fit of the first load data on the second segment and a fit of the second load data on the second segment;
>
> ~~rank~~ ranking, in a first list comprising available loads for the first segment, the relative fits of the first load data and the second load data against the first segment ~~on a first segment list~~;
>
> ~~rank~~ ranking, in a second list comprising available loads for the second segment, the relative fits of the first load data and the second load data against the second segment ~~on a second segment list~~;

~~assign~~ assigning the load having the highest ranking fit from the first

~~segment~~ list to the first segment and removing that load from the

second ~~segment~~ list; and

~~assign~~ assigning the load having the highest ranking fit from the second

~~segment~~ list to the second segment.

28.   (Currently Amended) The ~~article of manufacture~~ computer-readable storage

medium of claim 27, wherein the stages ~~instructions are~~ further comprise ~~capable~~

~~of causing a processor to evaluate~~ evaluating key parameters of the first load

data, wherein the key parameters include one or more of a time criteria, a

distance criteria, and a savings criteria.

29.   (Currently Amended) The ~~article of manufacture~~ computer-readable storage

medium of claim 28, wherein the stages ~~instructions are~~ further ~~capable of~~

~~causing a processor to~~ comprise:

check ~~checking~~ a latest ready delivery date of the first load data against

the first segment's estimated end date; and

setting, if the latest ready delivery date is greater than the estimated end

date, ~~set~~ the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

30.   (Currently Amended) The ~~article of manufacture~~ computer-readable storage

medium of claim 28, wherein the stages further comprise ~~instructions are further~~

~~capable of causing a processor to~~:

check ~~checking~~ a latest load ready date of the first load data against the

first segment's estimated start date; and

setting, if the latest load ready date is less than the estimated start date, ~~set~~ the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

31.   (Currently Amended) The ~~article of manufacture~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 28, wherein the distance criteria include one or more of a segment deadhead criteria, load deadhead criteria, and tour mileage criteria.

32.   (Currently Amended) The ~~article of manufacture~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the ~~instructions, when executed by a processor, are further capable of causing a processor to perform~~ stages further comprise ~~comprising~~:

     ~~compute~~ computing the segment deadhead resulting from assigning the first load to the first segment; and

     setting, if the computed segment deadhead is greater than the segment deadhead criteria, ~~set~~ the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

33.   (Currently Amended) The ~~article of manufacture~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the stages further comprise ~~instructions are further capable of causing a processor to~~:

     compute the total tour deadhead that would result from assigning the first load to the first segment; and

     if the computed total tour deadhead is greater than the load deadhead criteria, set the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~article of manufacture~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the stages further comprise ~~instructions are further capable of causing a processor to~~:

> ~~compute~~ computing the total tour mileage that would result from assigning the first load to the first segment; and

> setting, if the computed total tour mileage is greater than the tour mileage criteria, ~~set~~ the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

35-36. (Canceled)

37. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture containing instructions for optimizing a plurality of tours, each tour comprising a plurality of segments, the instructions being capable of causing a processor to:

> receive a plurality of loads, wherein each load may be assigned to a segment of a tour;

> place the plurality of received loads in an available load pool;

> assign a load from the available load pool to each respective segment of a first tour from the plurality of tours in order to optimize the total cost savings of the first tour;

> remove the assigned loads from the available load pool; and

> repeat the assigning and removing stages for each of the remaining plurality of tours for which the assigning stage has not been performed.

38.   (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture containing instructions for optimizing a

plurality of tours, each tour comprising a plurality of segments comprising:

receive a plurality of loads, wherein each load may be assigned to a

segment of a tour;

place the plurality of received loads in an available load pool;

assign a load from the available load pool to each respective segment of a

first tour from the plurality of tours in order to optimize the total cost

savings of the whole of the plurality of tours; and

repeat the assigning stage for each of the remaining plurality of tours for

which the assigning stage has not been performed.

39.   (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture containing instructions for scratch

optimizing a plurality of loads, the instructions being capable of causing a

processor to:

receive a plurality of loads;

place the plurality of received loads in an available load pool;

create a tour, having one or more segments, based on the available load

pool;

assign a load from the available load pool to each respective segment of

the created tour in order to optimize the cost savings of the created

tour; and

remove the assigned loads from the available load pool.